

XXXIV.—On the Claws and Spurs of Birds' Wings.

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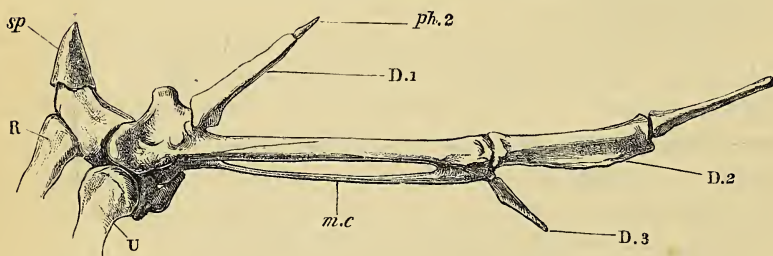
[Continued from p. 151.]

3. The Spur of the Spur-winged Goose (*Plectropterus gambensis*).

In *Plectropterus gambensis* we find a very different arrangement prevailing from what is met with in *Chauna* (above, p. 150). The single spur (*Sp*) is placed, not on the metacarpals at all, but on one of the carpal bones; it projects about an inch in length, with a slight curvature towards the radius.

There is an ungual phalanx, as in *Chauna*, at the extremity of the first digit, but I am not sure that there is any

Fig. 3.



End of right wing of *Plectropterus gambensis*, reduced one half. *Sp*, spur.

D. 1, first digit: *Ph. 2*, ungual phalanx of ditto. *D. 2*, second digit; *D. 3*, third digit. *m.c.*, metacarpals. *U*, ulna. *R*, radius.

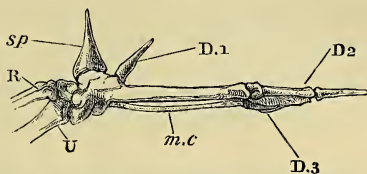
corneous covering in this case to represent the *unguis*. The whole of the first digit measures 1·3 in. in this bird, being rather more than in *Chauna derbiana*, although the radius and ulna are slightly shorter.

4. The Spur of *Parra*.

In *Parra* we return, as regards the single spur, to nearly the same arrangement as is found in *Chauna*. The spur is placed at the basal extremity of the coalesced metacarpals,

whence it projects on the radial edge, about 0·4 in. in length. In the accompanying figure (fig. 4) it is represented of the

Fig. 4.



End of right wing of *Parra jacana*, of the natural size. *Sp*, spur. *D. 1*, *D. 2*, *D. 3*, digits. *R*, radius. *U*, ulna. *m.c.*, metacarpals.

natural size. Immediately in front of it is the first digit, which in this bird consists of a single phalanx much pointed at the extremity.

XXXV.—*A Review of the Species of the Family Ploceidæ of the Ethiopian Region.* By Captain G. E. SHELLEY, F.Z.S.
—Part I. Viduinæ.

(Plate IX.)

THE Ploceidæ, or Weavers, most nearly approach the Fringillidæ, from which they may be readily separated by their possessing an extra or bastard primary. From the Alaudidæ, which also have a bastard primary, they may be distinguished by their feet, which, in the Ploceidæ, are adapted for clinging on to boughs, and in the Alaudidæ for running on the ground. On the other side of the Ploceidæ I should place the Oriolidæ and the Sturnidæ.

The present review has been undertaken in the hopes of assisting in the comprehension of this intricate family, and in forming a classification which I shall be able to follow in future. I divide the Ploceidæ into two subfamilies of nearly equal proportions, the Viduinæ and the Ploceinæ; these two subfamilies are not very sharply marked, but their members will, I trust, be easily recognized.

The first subfamily, Viduinæ, to which I shall confine my observations at present, is distinguished by the bastard pri-